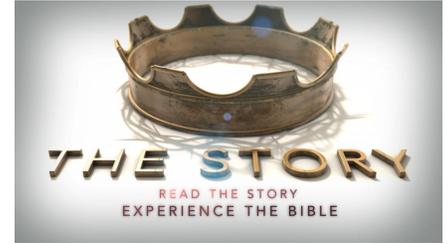


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for July 18, 2021:
Chapter 21: Rebuilding the Walls



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS Community or family

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

1. Tell about your first job or a moment in life when you discovered that some things demand good old-fashioned hard work.

- **GROW** *in Christ*

1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

3 They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 Then I said:

“Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you.

11 Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name.

Nehemiah 1:1-6, 11a

1. Throughout The Story God calls his people to (1) refocus of God; (2) recenter on his plan for our lives; (3) remember who God is; (4) rebuild our relationship with him. What have you learned in the past twenty weeks about one of these four themes?
2. God worked through King Araxerxes to send the exiles back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and reestablish worship (Ezra 7:11-28). How have you seen God use surprising people and circumstances to accomplish his will in this world?

3. Nehemiah was a man of prayer. What situations led Nehemiah to pray and what do we learn from his example?
4. Nehemiah not only prayed hard but he worked hard. What is the danger of praying hard but not working hard? What are some possible consequences of working hard but forgetting to pray?
5. Malachi was the last prophet of the Hebrew Bible and this movement of The Story. He challenged the people to give God their first and best, not their last and leftovers (Malachi 1:6-10; 3:6-12). What are some ways we give God our leftovers rather than our first and best?
6. Why is it so important that we give God the first and best of all we have? What are examples of how you can do this?

- **SERVE** *others*

Think of what you have learned in The Story so far and how it has impacted your life. Is there someone you could share that bigger kingdom story of God's love with this week? Make a plan, how will you do that?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing.**